

A N
ADDRESS to the PUBLIC,
CONCERNING
IMPEDIMENTS IN SPEECH,
DEFECTS OF UTTERANCE, &c.
AND
A SYLLABUS of a Course of LECTURES
ON PUBLIC SPEAKING.



L O N D O N :
M.DCC.LXXXVI.

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MR. ANGIER, N^o 1, Poland-Street, London, who effectually cures Impediments in Speech, and enables Gentlemen to acquire noble and powerful Elocution, upon a new, and, he flatters himself, a superior Principle to what has yet been discovered, addresses the Public, to assure them, that after studying and practising a Profession which has always been thought impossible to be rendered practicable and certain, he has now brought it to a very high Degree of Perfection; as can be attested by persons of the most respectable Characters, and some of the first Consequence, who have been effectually cured, or greatly relieved by him.

Impediments in Speech, from the dreadful Symptoms which accompany them, and the Distress of Mind they occasion in every Speaker and Hearer, have always been considered by Mankind, in every Age of the World, as Defects in Nature, to which Art can give little or no Relief. Holy Writ, in Compliance with this general Opinion, has represented these unhappy Complaints as remediable only by a Divine Power. Yet, History informs us, they have been sometimes overcome by proper Helps and indefatigable Pains. Demosthenes laboured under almost every Difficulty of this Kind; yet, by Methods very strange and laborious, as they are commonly understood, not only cured himself of them all, but afterwards became the greatest Orator, Greece ever produced. And many Gentlemen in our Times, who
have

have had small Impediments in their Speech, have conquered them, without the Aid of any particular Rules, or the Assistance of others; and those who have had them to an extraordinary Degree, attended with such violent convulsive Attacks on the Organs, that they could not possibly surmount them, without the Assistance of others skilled in removing these Defects, have sometimes been happily relieved: but these Undertakings have been attended with great Uncertainty, from the Causes of them not having been ascertained on Scientific Principles, without which, Experience can never bring any Art to Perfection; and therefore many have been pronounced incurable, who, had the true Causes of their Defects been known, might have been effectually cured. But to discover whether an Impediment proceeds from a Defect in Nature, or from an improper Use of the Organs of Speech, must, without just Principles to assist our Enquiries, be a most difficult and uncertain Undertaking, and therefore must be ascertained from just Principles, deduced from Experience, without which, proper Methods cannot be adopted, suitable to each Impediment. Mr. ANGIER, at his first undertaking this Profession, being conscious that this Art was but in a state of Infancy, has for a great Number of Years assisted his Enquiries into the Causes of Impediments in Speech, by collecting every anatomical Information respecting the Powers and Use of the several Organs of Utterance, and the Mechanism of Sounds; and consulted many eminent Physicians and Surgeons, who generously gave him their Assistance, and investigated all the Methods which have been made use of by others, and maturely enquired into their Utility. A large Experience of the different Kinds of Impediments, affords him the strongest Reasons to conclude, that he has brought this Art to that State of Maturity, that even the most afflicted

may be effectually cured, or greatly relieved, as some of his Pupils, who have done him much honour, were of a nervous and delicate Constitution. The Methods, though different from any yet made use of, are easily practised, being such as the natural Construction of the Organs prescribes.

Mr. ANGIER would not have undertaken to teach the Art of Pronunciation, had he not found that most of the Defects of our Public Speakers proceed from their Organs being impaired by one or more of those Obstructions, which occasion Lisping, speaking through the Nose, a low, weak, rough, hoarse, thick, mumbling, or squeaking Voice, or some disagreeable Tone, which are the sole Causes which prevent most of them from speaking with due Distinctness, Strength, Variety, and Grace. The great Scarcity of good Public Speakers does not proceed from a Want of Men of Abilities or Learning, or from their not knowing how they should deliver their Thoughts in a nervous and graceful Manner, but from want of Freedom and Power in their Organs of Speech ; for, in the present State of Elocution among the Moderns, very different Methods are wanted from those necessary amongst the Antients, to acquire a masterly Pronunciation, because they took care that no bad Habits perverted the Organs of their Children, as they were early taught, by judicious Masters, how to strengthen and smooth the Voice, or improve it in Point of Distinctness and Variety of Tone, by which a good Foundation was laid for attaining at Years of Maturity a noble and powerful Delivery; and we should have as great Speakers amongst us, if Boys, before they had acquired bad Habits, were taught at School to speak and read in a distinct and proper Manner, as they are to write and dance.

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The Plan, Mr. ANGIER has adopted, will enable any Gentleman of Abilities and Learning, who is deficient in Point of Delivery, to become a better Speaker, by following such Instructions as are suited to his peculiar Case, for two Months, than he would in a Twelvemonth by all the Rhetorical Rules which have hitherto been recommended, without being accompanied with those Helps: But as this Assertion may be considered chimerical, he has the Happiness to assert, that he has laid his Plan before many of the most distinguished Gentlemen of the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Dublin, and Edinburgh, in a Course of Lectures; and they were fully satisfied, that the Methods of removing those Defects, and acquiring Excellencies, were just and rational. -Several Examples were produced of their Power and Efficacy. —These Lectures are greatly improved and enlarged.

Mr. ANGIER proposes to read them by SUBSCRIPTION,

at ONE GUINEA the COURSE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS taken in at his House at N^o 1,
POLAND-STREET, OXFORD-STREET.

*** N. B. The Money to be paid at the Commencement of the Lectures.

A Syllabus

A Syllabus of a Course of LECTURES ON Pronunciation, or the Art of Speaking in Public, where the Subject is considered and explained upon a new Principle, and in a more practical Light, than has hitherto been attempted.

LECTURE I.

The true Nature of Public Speaking. The Distinction between that and Private Conversation. An Enquiry whether Speech be natural or attained. The Alphabet explained in a new Light, and considered as the very Foundation of Public Oratory.

LECTURE II.

The Necessity of a Public Speaker's possessing a judicious and attentive Ear. Rules for the attaining of it. Some of the Causes from which a low Voice may proceed, with the Methods of removing them.

LECTURE III.

Continuation of the Causes which produce a low Voice, with the Methods to remove them. The Impediments of *Demosthenes* illustrated; how the Methods, which he adopted, operated towards the Removal of them. An Attempt to explain what has since his Time excited the Astonishment of the Learned;

ed; how the Means which he made use of could produce such wonderful Effects, while others who employed the like Methods have generally failed of Success. The Causes from whence Lispings proceed; the most effectual Methods of removing them. What causes the Voice to be rough and hoarse, and how to give it clearness. What produces a shrill squeaking Voice, and how to change it to an agreeable one.

LECTURE IV.

General Defects in Speech common to all Ranks of People, which a Public Speaker must surmount before he can expect to acquire a noble Pronunciation. Proper Principles and Rules laid down, by which they may be effectually surmounted. Reflections on the general Manner of Teaching young Gentlemen and Ladies to speak and read. Inconveniencies attending it. Proper Methods and Rules laid down to prevent Children from falling into Impediments, and acquiring other bad Modes of Speaking, as also how to attain a just and pleasing Utterance.

LECTURE V.

The Powers of Speech, particularly those of Eloquence, or Public Speaking, considered as producing a wonderful Species of Music. The Nature and Power of Emphasis illustrated. Cadence explained in a new Light. How the Tones of the Voice in Public Speaking may be sufficiently and powerfully diversified.

LECTURE VI.

The Tones proper for Oratory should be farther improved so as to suit that peculiar Species of Elocution to which each Gentleman proposes to confine him-

himself; since that which is proper for the Pulpit is quite otherwise for the Bar; and since there is considerable difference between the Manner proper for the Senate and that of the Theatre. The Manner in which the Tones may be improved to the highest Perfection in every different Species of Oratory, as well as in the different Parts of an Oration. The Rule, That, if we would affect others, we must be affected ourselves, ought to be understood by every one, who would be a powerful Speaker, with great Limitation, particularly in Debate. Several different Kinds of Oratory described, which may be useful to assist Gentlemen to cultivate and improve that Species which is most suited to their peculiar Dispositions and Abilities.

L E C T U R E VII.

In what Position the Organs of Speech will most effectually produce a noble and manly Utterance proper for speaking in Public. How Gentlemen, who speak in Public, may raise their Voices, and preserve their Expression, so as to be heard in any Place, even our largest Churches, Cathedral Choirs, Halls, &c. without straining themselves or hurting their Constitutions. Several Remarks relative to the farther Management of the Breath and Voice, with which every Public Speaker ought to be acquainted, and which will greatly assist to restore the Pronunciation of the Ancients. Some Reflections on the common Opinion of Mankind, that those Impediments in Speech of every Kind, so general amongst us, proceed from some original Defects which attended the Organs at the Birth, or from some Damage they afterwards received, which Opinion has been very prejudicial to the Improvement of these Organs, and the Powers of Eloquence. The Excellency and Utility of a good Pronunciation to Persons of all Ranks and Stations. Conclusion.

F I N I S.



